

THE GENERIC NAME TO BE USED FOR MUREX TRITONIS LINNÆ.

BY TOM IREDALE.

IN THE NAUTILUS, Vol. XXVI, pp. 53, 59, Sept., 1912, my friend Dr. W. H. Dall, commenting upon a note by Mathews and myself regarding the first introduction of the genus *Septa* by Perry, wrote: "The first name available for the group typified by *Murex tritonis* L. seems to be *Nyctilochus* of Gistel, 1848."

Recently, referring to some notes I made upon Gistel's names a complication seems apparent and I therefore give the data I have.

Gistel in the "Naturgeschichte Thierreiche," 1848, gave a long list of preoccupied names and substitutes. On p. 11 he included; "*Triton* (Laurenti, Lurch) bl: *Triton* (Broderip, Isis 1835, 453, Rankenfüssl): *Nyctilochus* N."

From this it would appear that *Nyctilochus* was provided as a substitute for *Triton* of Broderip as used in the Isis 1835, 453. At this place a résumé of the papers published in the Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. is given and we find:

"P. 71, *Triton clathratus, nitidulus, distortus, reticulatus, mediterraneus, ceylonensis, lineatus, decollatus.*"

The "p. 71" refers to the Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1833, where these species are described by "G. B. Sowerby," and a note given after *lineatus* reads:

"These seven may be regarded by some as mere varieties of *Trit. maculosus* of Lamarek, although I am fully satisfied of their being perfectly distinct species."

There is evidently an error in Gistel's reference both to the column of the "Isis" and to the page of the Proceedings of the Zoological Society, the second error deriving from the first. The reference to the "Isis" should be column 452; there is no paper on *Triton* by Broderip on page 71 of the Proceedings, but there is on page 5. Here we have a different list from that of Sowerby, namely, *Triton lignarius, constrictus, tigrinus, rudis, lineatus, gibbosus, scalariformis*, and *convolutus*. None of these is a *Septa*, and *Nyctilochus* judged by either list of species is synonymous with Bolten's earlier names, or with *Fusus* Helbling (*non auct.*).

In the body of his work Gistel however provided a generic name for *M. tritonis* L. alone, and I conclude that this name should be used. On p. 170, Gistel introduced:

“Tritonshornschnecke (*Charonia* Nob.; sonst: *Tritonium*).” Then follows a generic diagnosis and there is given a description of the species “*Ch. tritonis* Nob.”

I conclude then, if no name exists prior to Gistel, 1848, that *Charonia* Gistel should be the generic name to be used for *Murex tritonis* Linné.

Two further points require notice: To those unable to refer to Gistel a second *Charonia* might prove troublesome, as on p. 178 with a quaint carelessness he proposes *Charonia* for an Acaleph.

The family name to be used for the *Tritons* I would suggest should be *Cymatiidæ*, based upon the oldest genus name in the family. Basing the family name upon the supposed typical genus seems a quite unscientific method, as so much would depend upon the personal equation; speaking for myself I would have considered *Murex tritonis* Linné, a quite atypical member of the family, glancing over the whole of the molluscs at present associated in it.

THE UNIONE FAUNA OF THE GREAT LAKES.

BY BRYANT WALKER, SC. D.

(Continued from page 47.)

IV.

From what has already been said, it would seem to be clear that there is not any possibility that the present fauna of Lake Erie could be a relict fauna that persisted there during the glacial period. The entire region was covered by the ice and the entire configuration of the land was overwhelmed, blotted out, and the system of drainage was entirely changed by the drift deposited on the retreat of the ice. That under the enormous thickness of the ice cap throughout that entire area, there could have been any survival of a Naiad fauna seems absolutely impossible. But there are other facts, which show that the representatives now found in the Great Lake region of the Mississippi and Ohio faunas, are the results of a post-glacial invasion and that the modifications that have taken place in their size, shape, and appearance have been brought about by environmental changes since glacial times. The entire Lower Peninsula of Michigan was in the glaciated area. If the present fauna of that area has been derived from a survival in the Great Lakes, or in